



### FORT VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY **UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT TEAM**



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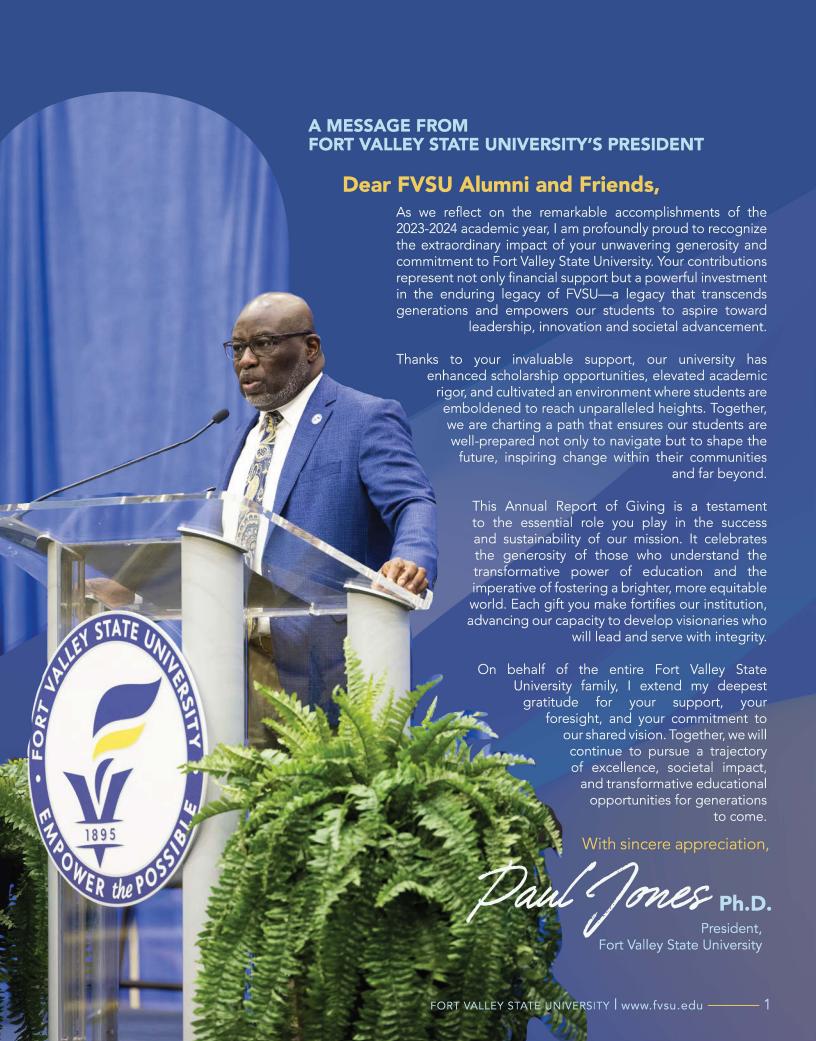
Dorothy Stripling
Account Manager

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OUR STORIES



# PRESIDENT'S CABINET







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INTERIM VICE PRESIDENT FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND LAND GRANT AFFAIRS

#### Nirmal Joshee, Ph.D.

INTERIM DEAN OF GRADUATE EDUCATION

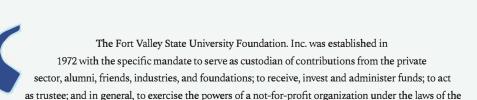
## Beth Day-Hairston, Ph.D.

DEAN, COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

## Fares Howari, Ph. D.

DEAN, COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

# THE FOUNDATION'S MISSION



The purposes for which this corporation is organized are as follows:

State of Georgia.

- 1. To encourage, Solicit, receive, and administer gifts and bequest of property and funds for scientific, educational, and charitable purposes, all for the advancement of Fort Valley State University and its objectives and purposes and to that end to take and hold either absolutely or in trust for any of said objectives and purposes, funds and, property of all kinds, and subject only to any limitations or conditions imposed by law or the instrument under which received; to sell, lease, convey, and dispose of any such property and to invest and reinvest and proceeds and other funds, and to deal and expend the principal and income for any purposes herein authorized; to act as trustee; and, in general, to exercise any, all, and every power, including trust powers, which a corporation not for profit organized under the laws of Georgia for the foregoing purposes can be authorized to exercise.
  - 2. To promote and support education; to provide:
  - (a) Funds which are not provided from public sources for use in the furtherance of
    education and welfare of Fort Valley State University, its faculty, and students;
     (b) Funds to be used in attracting experienced, and outstanding instructors, educators, and
    scientists to such university;

(c) Educational facilities, including dormitories;(d) Scholarships, and other activities subject to amendment.

- To do and perform any acts and expend its funds in any manner which the board of directors shall determine will be beneficial to education and the university.
- 4. Upon specific approval of the Board of Directors or executive committee, to borrow search sums, on such terms and with such security, if any, as may be prescribed in such approval, but no trust assets may be pledged or committed in a manner that would violate the trust upon which held.
- 5. All of the assets and income of the foundation shall be used only for the purpose hereinabove set out, including the payment of expenses incidental thereto; and no part of its assets, income, funds, or property shall inure to the benefit of its members, directors, or officers, and no part of its activities shall be for the carrying on of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the foundation shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distributing of statements), any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.
- 6. In the event of dissolution or other termination of the Foundation, title to all its assets shall vest in The Fort Valley State University or its successor, to be used exclusively for the purpose herein above set out, it being intended that no distribution or payment shall be made which will impair or destroy the tax exempt status of donations, contributions, legacies, bequests, or dues received by this Foundation, to the extent that such tax exempt status shall be allowed under any applicable laws or regulations.



# **OUR OFFICERS**

Lawrence Marable

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VICE CHAIRMAN

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VICE PRESIDENT OF UNIVERSITY
ADVANCEMENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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# OUR CHAIRMAN

Dear Wildcats, Friends, and Supporters,

It is with great pride that I present to you the Fort Valley State University Foundation's 2023-2024 Annual Report of Giving. As you review this report, you will notice that we have not only faced challenges but also celebrated significant achievements, all while steadfastly supporting higher academic standards and creating special opportunities for Fort Valley State University students.

I extend my deepest gratitude to the friends of FVSU, whose generous contributions, alongside the outstanding efforts of the Foundation Board of Directors, have made this possible. I am thrilled to report that the Foundation closed the 2023-2024 fiscal year with over \$3.5 million in assets, marking yet another milestone in our journey of growth and impact.

Thanks to the unwavering dedication of our board members, business partners, and the enduring support from our Wildcat family, we have successfully navigated the obstacles that continue to challenge FVSU and many other HBCUs. This past fiscal year, we not only met but exceeded our fundraising goals. Your generosity has been the cornerstone of our success, and we could not have achieved this without the commitment of our devoted alumni.

As we move forward, our mission remains our guiding light, fueling our progress and inspiring us to reach new heights. At Fort Valley State University, we embrace the dawn of a new season with renewed vigor. Every member of our board is committed to expanding our charitable efforts throughout Middle Georgia, across the state, and beyond. The deep-rooted culture of compassion and collaboration within our community empowers us to face challenges head-on and continue advancing our goals.

I am deeply appreciative of the continued passion and dedication shown by our Wildcat family. As we look ahead, I invite you to join us in shaping the future of Fort Valley State University with the same enthusiasm and commitment that has brought us this far. Together, we can achieve even greater things in the year to come.

Thank you once again for an extraordinary year! Sincerely.

Lawrence Marable
Chairman





# POINTS OF PRIDE

FROM OUR 1,060 DONORS

WE'VE RAISED \$3,000,000

AWARDING 615

SCHOLARSHIPS

TOTALING AROUND \$2,000,000

#### OUR LARGEST DONATION FROM A LIVING DONOR

Siblings Alonzo and Alma Jones, and their niece, Rose Holton have been the largest donation from a living donor to date at an astounding \$1,000,000!

#### **HOMECOMING 2023**

We presented 16 donor checks totaling \$1,473,700 and featured esteemed alumni Hodges and Ferguson as Grand Marshalls.

#### **NATIONAL GIVING DAY**

Exceeded our goal and raised over \$25,000 in unrestricted support.

## Thanks to TradeFutures,

FVSU was awarded a full one-year scholarship valued at \$19,810, supporting students in educational pursuits. These partnerships, along with ongoing collaborations with the Macon and Warner Robins Chamber of Commerce, underscore FVSU's commitment to providing valuable opportunities and resources for it's students.





# A History of Giving Back The Jones Family's Legacy of Support for FVSU:

The \$1 million gift, made just last year in 2023, is only the latest chapter in the Jones family's extraordinary giving history. The family has made significant financial contributions to FVSU for over a decade, totaling more than \$1.7 million. In 2021, they donated \$700,000 to establish the Dr. Alma Jones Endowed Professorship of Social Justice, marking the first endowed position in the university's history.

Dr. Alma Jones, the eldest of the Jones siblings, was the first in her family to attend FVSU. Her achievements set the standard for her siblings, and she earned advanced degrees in medicine and public health. She has spent her career advocating for underserved populations, particularly in healthcare, and ensuring equitable access to medical services. The endowed professorship in her name seeks to continue this mission, supporting interdisciplinary research and education to address systemic inequities in society.

The Dr. Alma Jones Professorship has already had a profound impact three years after its establishment, fostering collaboration among faculty and students to address critical social justice issues. FVSU Department of Behavioral and Social Science Professor Komanduri S. Murty, Ph.D., continues to serve in his appointment to the Dr. Alma Jones Professorship in Social Justice, the university's first-ever endowed professorship.

"The Jones family's generosity represents a lasting investment in the future of our students and the communities we serve," said FVSU President Paul Jones. "Their commitment to social justice and educational excellence is transforming not just our campus but the lives of the students who will go on to make a difference in the world."

# Cementing A Legacy: The Christine and Willie C. Jones Amphitheates

The Jones family's commitment to FVSU can also be seen in the physical spaces that now bear their family name. In April 2021, FVSU unveiled the Christine and Willie C. Jones Amphitheater, named in honor of the family's late parents. Despite humble beginnings in rural Georgia, Christine and Willie Jones instilled a deep appreciation for education in their children, eight of whom attended FVSU.

The amphitheater, located in the heart of campus, has since become a gathering space for student and community events, reinforcing the Jones family's community engagement and service values. Over the past three years, it has hosted cultural events, academic discussions, and student activities, further strengthening the connection between the Jones family and FVSU's mission of student success.

# From Humble Beginnings to Success: A Family Tradition

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# Continuing a Legacy of Giving in 2024 and Beyond

As we move into the fall of 2024, the Alonzo and Alma Jones Student Center continues to thrive as a hub for student activity, collaboration, and community. "We want this space to be more than just a building—it's a place where students can come together to share ideas, collaborate with faculty, and build their futures," Dr. Alma Jones said at the student center's renaming ceremony in October 2023.

The Jones family's total contributions of over \$1.7 million have created a lasting impact that will benefit the university for years to come. Their unwavering commitment to FVSU, education, and social justice is a testament to the power of giving back and the difference alumni can make in shaping the future of an institution.

From the Christine and Willie C. Jones Amphitheater to the Alonzo and Alma Jones Student Center, the FVSU campus is a living tribute to a family whose generosity has transformed the university. And as FVSU continues to grow, the Jones family's legacy of service, success, and social responsibility remains at the heart of the university's mission.



Alumni and siblings Alonzo and Alma Jones donated \$1 million to the university, which is said to be the largest donation ever by living alumni. Now, the building is called Alonzo and Alma Jones Student Center, and it serves as a central hub for these students. Alonzo Jones graduated from Fort Valley in 1983 and Alma Jones in 1971 – both are now medical doctors. Officials at the university say their journey from students to successful doctors has inspired incoming, current and future students.

"They have a heart of service," Fort Valley's interim Vice President for Advancement Karen Wright said. "After talking to Alma Jones, she wanted there to be a place where students would grow, they would collaborate with each other and their professors, and would also be used by the community." Lo and behold, their vision came true.

On Monday, the Jones family was there to unveil the newly named "Alonzo and Alma Student Center." It is a central hub for Fort Valley's Wildcats. As an alumni giving back, Alonzo Jones emphasized the potential he sees in the students at Fort Valley State.

"What we're doing in Fort Valley is just trying to make sure that people that feel marginalized, that maybe feel unincluded, and maybe didn't get the best high school education will still have ambitions, dreams, and aspirations about doing something bigger, to get an opportunity," Jones said.

Overall, many students at Fort Valley feel inspired. Senior Anthony Thomas thinks the newly renovated and renamed building will have a large impact on the future of Fort Valley.

"It really brings a sense of reckoning to the student body to realize that something huge for us to happen in their lives and in the campuses life for this building to be named after them so it's a sense of gratitude and then its an inspiration," Thomas said.

The center has updated furniture and games for students to enjoy on their off days as well as conference rooms on the second floor for students to study with their fellow students.



# Empowering future leaders through Education and Collaboration.



# FVSU, UGA College of Pharmacy Partner to Support Future Pharmacists

Fort Valley State University (FVSU) and the University of Georgia (UGA) College of Pharmacy signed an agreement allowing FVSU undergraduate chemistry students to have a streamlined approach for admission into UGA's Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) program.



# FVSU's Homecoming 2023 "1895: The HITS" - Record Breaking Homecoming

The Wildcat football game against Morehouse drew record attendance, making it one of the most well-attended Homecoming games in recent history. Gate receipts from the football game showed an increase of 48%. This Homecoming witnessed an unprecedented achievement, with more than 300 season tickets sold. This marks the highest number of season ticket sales in FVSU's history, reflecting the passion and commitment of fans and supporters and the outstanding work of our Athletics staff.

Tailgating, another Homecoming tradition, saw an increase in participation. Current students, alumni, family, and friends came together to celebrate, enjoying good food and creating lasting memories. All tailgating spots for Homecoming 2023 were completely SOLD OUT with an 11% increase, and revenue from parking experienced a 2% increase. The vendor spots for Homecoming 2023 were in high demand and were SOLD OUT. Vending revenue soared by an impressive 31%.



# FVSU Reopens The Vault in Honor of Thomas W. Dortch Jr.: A Resource Hub for Students

FVSU held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to reopen The Vault featuring Tommy's Closet. This celebration, led by President Paul Jones, Ph.D., honored the opening of a one-of-a-kind location in downtown Forty Valley where FVSU students can get professional clothes, toiletries and food. Tommy's Closet honors FVSU alum, the late Thomas W. Dortch Jr., President of Atlanta's 100 Black Men. Thomas W Dortch Jr. is recognized for his significant participation in youth mentoring, nonviolence, economic development, and education.



# FVSU Fab Lab Grand Opening Sparks STEM Education Innovation

The grand opening celebrated the collaborative effort between Fort Valley State University, Chevron, and the Fab Foundation in introducing the innovative Fab Lab to the community. Attendees explored the newly established creative space, which was equipped with state-of-the-art tools, machinery, and resources designed to empower individuals to transform ideas into reality through digital fabrication, rapid prototyping, and hands-on learning.

The Fab Lab is a digital fabrication lab open to the FVSU community, K-12 students and educators, the public (including small businesses and entrepreneurs), and the Air Force community. The FVSU Fab Lab is funded by Chevron's HBCU Social Equity project and the Fab Foundation.

1895

	2023	2022	
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	\$ 2,641,517	\$3,236,855	
LOANS RECEIVABLE	\$ 10,000	\$10,000	
INVESTMENTS	\$ 12,311,637	\$ 11,877,046	
ASSETS LIMITED AS TO USE	\$ 3,013,416	\$ 2,328,412	
LEASES RECEIVABLE	\$ 16,064,479	\$ 16,679,299	
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT, NET	\$ 1,187,667	\$ 1,225,823	
TOTAL ASSETS	<b>\$</b> 35,228,716	\$35,357,435	

	2023	2022	
DUE TO FORT VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY	\$ 1,523,219	\$ 1,115,425	
ACCRUED INTEREST	\$ 154,935	\$159,474	
NOTES PAYABLE	\$ 75,903	\$ 94,013	
REVENUE BONDS PAYABLE	\$ 16,064,479	\$ 16,679,300	
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 17,818,536	\$ 18,048,212	

	2023	2022	
WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS	\$ 5,060,073	\$ 4,244,278	
WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS	\$ 12,350,107	\$13,064,945	
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$ 17,410,180	\$ 17,309,223	

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

\$ 35,228,716 TOTAL FOR 2023

\$ 35,357,435 TOTAL FOR 2022



# 37th Annual **SCHOLARSHIP** LUNCHEON

Exceeds Goal of \$500,000

Our 37th Scholarship Luncheon at Fort Valley State University (FVSU) was a resounding success, with more than 700 attendees gathering under the theme "Igniting the Light: A Legacy of Giving." Surpassing its ambitious fundraising goal of \$500,000, the event brought together alumni, supporters, students, faculty/staff and distinguished guests to celebrate the university's outstanding achievements and its unwavering commitment to nurturing student success.

Keynote speaker Stevie Baggs Jr., actor, author and inspirational speaker, delivered a powerful and inspiring address, urging attendees to embrace the spirit of giving back to institutions like FVSU that serve as beacons of opportunity. Baggs poignantly stated, "Legacy is not just what you leave for people, it's what you leave in people," encapsulating the profound impact of educational empowerment championed by FVSU. He underscored the university's motto, "Empower the Possible," highlighting how FVSU not only empowers students to achieve their dreams but also inspires them to achieve what seems to be impossible.

The ceremony also honored outstanding alumni and supporters who have played pivotal roles in advancing FVSU's mission. Among the honorees, the Maggie Davis Legacy Recipients, including LTC Andrew Reese, Mr. Kenneth Howard, Mr. Y.N. Myers II, Dr. Vernard Hodges, Dr. Terrence Ferguson, Dr. Mathew McRae, Dr. Freddie McRae, Dr. Sylvester McRae, and Dr. Keith McRae, were recognized for their exemplary dedication and achievements. Notably, the McRae brothers, all FVSU graduates who achieved remarkable success in the medical field, symbolize the transformative power of education.

Furthermore, the Eternal Flame Award, was presented to Anne Gayles Felton, Ph.D., an esteemed FVSU alumna from the class of 1943. Dr. Felton, at 100 years old, embodies the enduring legacy of FVSU and serves as an inspiration to generations of students.

Additionally, the ceremony paid tribute to the Honoree Award Recipients, including Aretha Hill, Ph.D., Mr. Berry Jordan (posthumously), Mr. Dennis Herbert (posthumously), Mr. Luther Jones, Mrs. Letitia Toomer-Jones, and Mrs. Sharee Lawrence, for their outstanding contributions to FVSU's mission and their unwavering commitment to excellence.

The scholarship luncheon served as a powerful reminder of the collective spirit and generosity that define the FVSU community. Through collaborative efforts and a legacy of giving, FVSU continues to illuminate the path to success for students and inspire them to make meaningful contributions to their communities and beyond.

# Without our donors, what we do would not be possible!



CTM Auditorium Named as Issac J.
Crumbly Auditorium
Students, faculty, staff, alums, and community leaders came together to honor the remarkable contributions of Crumbly

Students, faculty, staff, alums, and community leaders came together to honor the remarkable contributions of Crumbly during the naming ceremony of the Isaac J. Crumbly Auditorium. Isaac J. Crumbly, Ph.D., serves as the associate president for careers and collaborative programs and the founder and director of the Cooperative Developmental Energy Program (CDEP) and Fort Valley State University has been home to him for almost 60 years. Now, he has an auditorium bearing his name. Held in the Blanchet Computer Technology and Mathematics building, the lobby was full of individuals impacted in some way by Crumbly.

Student Government Association President Genesis Ivey initiated the program with a warm welcome. Anthony Thomas II delivered the invocation, while Jackie Hodges, Ed.D., assistant CDEP Director, presented the occasion, deeming Crumbly the G.O.A.T. (greatest of all time).



# Classroom Named in Honor of Ronald K. Abe

Classroom 112, in the Cozy L. Ellison Building, has been named after Ronald K. Abe, Ph.D.Ronald K. Abe, Ph.D., was born into a lineage rich in tradition and honor. As the grandson of a samurai warrior, a deep sense of integrity and compassion was instilled in him from an early age. Raised in the vibrant community of Hilo, Hawaii, he was the youngest of six children, surrounded by love, laughter, and the cherished bonds of family.

Abe pursued his passion for animal science, earning a bachelor's degree from the University of Hawaii in 1962. His thirst for knowledge led him to Kansas State University (KSU), where he earned a master's degree in animal production in 1965 and a Ph.D. in animal putrition in 1970.

Upon completing his studies, Cozy Ellison, Ph.D., a fellow KSU alum, offered Abe a teaching position at Fort Valley State College (FVSC). Abe's visit to the campus and interview filled him with excitement and optimism. He joined as an associate professor of Animal Science, imparting knowledge in biology and ecology to eager students.

Abe's gentle demeanor and generous spirit endeared him to all who knew him, including family, friends, and colleagues. His legacy of kindness, wisdom, and mentorship lives on through the lives he touched, from his beloved wife, Hazel, and son, Vernard, to his grandson, VJ, and the countless students whose paths he illuminated with his guidance.



## Contributions of \$1-\$999

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The easiest way to give to FVSU is through a cash contribution. Make a donation designated for the university's area of greatest current need. Contribute a large gift for a specific purpose, for scholarships, to enhance facilities, or to support a special activity.

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# Matching Gift

You or your spouse may work at a company that matches its employees' donations to higher education institutions. This program offers a great opportunity to double or triple your gift to the university. Each year, FVSU benefits from corporate contributions initiated by company employees or retirees.

# Life Insurance

A contribution to the Fort Valley State University Foundation, Inc. from a life insurance policy can be made either by delivering an assigned ownership of the policy to the foundation, or by naming the foundation as the irrevocable Owner and beneficiary of the policy. The policy provides a definite, large, future gift at a small annual expense, and premiums are tax deductible. Another way to give is to change the beneficiary of an existing policy, if the present beneficiary no longer needs protection. The foundation can be named as the new beneficiary or co-beneficiary.

# **Memorial Gift**

Remember a loved one, living or deceased, by donating a gift in their name. Often, scholarships are established in memory of an individual to honor them.

# Stocks, Bonds, and Other Assets

Stocks or other investments owned for at least one year that have increased in value become a substantial gift and can be donated at a low net cost to you. Appreciated assets can be ideal funding sources for charitable gifts that provide you (or someone you want to support) regular income for life.

# Take a Capital Loss Yourself

If you own securities worth less now than when originally purchased, sell them and contribute the proceeds to the Fort Valley State University Foundation, Inc. Deduct the capital loss on your tax return. A tax break is not available to the foundation if the securities are donated directly to us.



# **Personal Property**

In most cases, a gift of tangible personal property, such as a painting, antiques, books, artifacts, or jewelry is considered a charitable deduction. The potential capital tax on the property's appreciation can be avoided.

# **Appreciated Property**

It is often advantageous to contribute appreciated property rather than cash. Securities, homes, land, and other assets make ideal gifts. By donating gifts of appreciated property, you eliminate capital gains tax and receive a charitable deduction based on the full market value of the gift.

# **Outright Bequest**

Name the Fort Valley State University Foundation, Inc. as a beneficiary in your will and make a gift of cash, investments, or property from your estate.

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A residual bequest provides that after specific bequests are made to named individuals, Fort Valley State University receives the "residue" or the amount remaining in the estate.

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If you already have a valid, up-to-date will, you can have an attorney prepare a codicil to the will naming the university as a beneficiary without rewriting the entire document.



Make a gift today and help the Fort Valley State University Foundation support students to reach their full potential.

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